

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

Media Office

Democratic Caucus

John Schorg, Director

Statehouse, Room 157

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

1-800-382-9842 or 1-317-232-9621

Fax Number: 1-317-232-9792

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KUZMAN BILL ON NATIONAL GUARD PASSED UNANIMOUSLY OUT OF HOUSE

INDIANAPOLIS -- Senate Bill 304, legislation co-sponsored by State Rep. Bob Kuzman (D-Crown Point) that will exempt the surviving spouse and children of National Guard members who are killed on active duty from payment of tuition and other mandatory fees at a state educational institution, passed unanimously out of the House today.

"When one of our citizens gives his or her life in defense of our state and our nation, the least we can do is provide for his or her spouse and children," said Kuzman. "This bill will, in some measure, do just that."

The State Adjutant General has sole responsibility for deciding who is eligible for the tuition exemption.

The bill will also specify that the income a National Guard member earns while deployed overseas is exempt from consideration in determining eligibility for the Frank O'Bannon grant program, which provides assistance to Hoosier students based on need. Additionally, certain application deadlines for student assistance are extended or waived.

"Tuition assistance is one of the most significant benefits a person can receive for serving in the National Guard," said Kuzman. "We should make sure that all National Guard members have ample opportunity to fully take advantage of this."

Senate Bill 304 will now move to the Senate for concurrence with changes made in the House.